

gives the Lord a chance to look down and to temper the wind to the shorn lambs inside.

If a snow-blinded motorman runs down and kills a pedestrian with his fenderless car he can plead his blindness. Surely a blind man is not to blame that he cannot see.

All in all, we may lack many things, but there is no such other enchanting street car service in the world as that of our own city of Zion.

HOW DEGENERATION COMES.

A fad is going the rounds of writers just now that exhaustive wars so deplete the vitality of nations that degeneration must follow. A celebrated London writer has just put out a book in which he declares that the present race of Italians are not descendants of the old Romans, but of the slaves of old Rome. All of which we do not believe.

Great wars prevent thousands of marriages and stop the natural increase of population but we do not believe they cause degeneration. Early in the sixteenth century the men that Cortes led into Mexico were sure enough fighters. Three hundred years later, when Wellington went to Spain to help drive the French out, after many trials, he declared that the Spanish army was a hindrance rather than a help to him. That degeneration did not come through wars.

It came in part through a blending of church and State with the church in the ascendant, but chiefly through ignorance and such an adjustment of the finances of the State that the few possessed all wealth and the many lacked the comforts and many of the necessities of life. The same causes wrought the downfall of old Rome. While she was conquering the world her people did not degenerate. The greatest Romans, greatest in arms and arts and learning lived just before her eclipse came and after she had been fighting and empire-building for seven hundred years.

Her precious-metal mines ceased to yield. Naturally her property began to fall in value; people who were in debt lost their homes; the wealth of the empire went to the few, hope died in the souls of the many, vices crept in to destroy the rich; to minister to those vices the poor were debased with bribes. Men and especially young women sold their souls for money until both men and women ceased to be worthy to become the parents of brave sons or virtuous daughters. The same results only in a reversed way wrought the degeneration of Spain. When the New World was discovered all the people of that country were poor. The mines of Peru and Mexico brought great wealth to a portion of the people. Their sons, not being obliged to work and having plenty of money took on all the vices that idleness breeds and invented others. The daughters of the poor became their prey, and the very poor looking at the wealth they could not acquire any portion of, lost hope. After that, degeneracy was swift. Had Spain settled where the English did, on the northern Atlantic coast, where there were no great mines, they would have continued gradually to improve even as did the men who peopled Chili. The rule is that when an ignorant people lose hope their decay is swift. If anyone will go for an hour in the evening into the Waldorf-Astoria hotel and watch what is going on there, and then go to one of the free-and-easy theaters that are the rage at present in New York City, he will see the same causes at work there which so swiftly broke down the manhood and womanhood of old Spain.

If the degeneration of this country does not prove quite as rapid as did that of Spain, it will be because of three things. The first is our free schools which keep honor bright among the masses of our countrymen; the second is that as yet no creed has become dominant in the direction of politics, the third is the steady immigration of the strong races of the Old World.

As yet the boy in the mill dreams of being a Carnegie, the boy in the mines dreams of being a United States Senator and the boy on the farm dreams of being President of the United States, and while this remains so, the rich man may bribe counts and no accounts to marry his daughters; the sons of millionaires may marry prostitutes or get themselves killed by automobiles, and still the Great Republic will run on an even keel and more majesty and power as the years roll on.

In case, too, there should be one or many calls to arms, in defense of native land, there will be the old-time response; from every State soldiers will spring as if from the ground and their tread will be like the beating of the pulses of Destiny.

"ROUND ABOUT THE EARTH."

European railroad directors recently met in Paris, their business being the arranging of the details for through regular trains from Paris to Peking. The trip is to be made in nineteen against thirty-two days by the most direct sea route. It is further stated that arrangements are being perfected with the Atlantic and Pacific steamship companies and American railroad companies for close connections so that round trip tickets can be sold and the world spanned in fifty days. This old world of ours is shrinking, sure enough. A good many people remember distinctly when it required three years for a Yankee whaler to make the trip from New Bedford to Bering Sea and return. Now the world is to be rounded in fifty days. Two great continents, two great oceans, and with the ships now building and with some needed improvements in the Siberian railroad, the fifty days will probably in the next five years be cut down seven days more. When Puck said he would put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes he was not dreaming. The light had come to Shakespeare's imagination even as sometimes a tune comes to the inner consciousness of men long before they can give it expression on their lips. But when Watt heard the first respiration of the first steam engine, the chances are that he did not once think of anything beyond running a factory with it. He lacked the great poet's fancy, but his invention is about to girdle the earth in forty days.

IMPROVED WEAPONS.

At the battle of Buena Vista Jeff Davis's regiment of Mississippi riflemen was charged upon by 4000 Mexican lancers. Davis threw the regiment into the form of a V and with their rifles, without bayonets, repelled the charge. It was rated as one of the most brilliant and wonderful performances ever seen on a battlefield. So it was. The rifles were muzzle loading and fired by a percussion cap. The effective range of the guns was about 200 yards.

But at a gun store up town there is an ill-favored and vicious looking pistol about six or seven inches long that has an effective range of 1200 yards; which at 200 yards will drive a bullet through a telegraph pole, and it can be fired ten times as rapidly as a man can pull the trigger. By an ingenious arrangement the recoil is neutralized, so that a delicate woman could fire the weapon without any shock to her hand or arm. Had the Mississippi regiment been armed with those pistols and had waited until the Mexicans were within 200 yards of their line, they could have about annihilated that column of lancers, men and horses, before the remnant could have got out of range. Buena Vista was fought fifty-five years ago. Is it not safe to calculate that in fifty-five years more war between civilized nations will be impossible because of its overwhelming destructiveness?

Under the heading, "Beware of the Flood," Mr. Bryan in his Commoner outlines the probable fate of the Democracy in these melancholy words:

"If any Democratic speaker feels discouraged because he does not make many converts, let him remember that Noah preached righteousness for an hundred years and did not make any converts at all, but at the end of that time a flood came and drowned those who refused to turn from their evil ways."

THE MESSAGE.

The annual message of the President to Congress is this year particularly satisfactory. Contrasted with some of the dreary, monotonous messages that have preceded it, it is as champagne to buttermilk.

It starts off like a literary cavalry charge and kindles American blood and veins like old wine. The important subjects are discussed with great ability, business and courage.

The message will, as a whole, appeal approvingly to the great mass of the intelligent men of the Nation. He handles the subject of trusts in a manner that reveals clearly enough that he believes they should be dealt with justly but by direct methods. His ideas of the relations that ought to exist between labor and capital show that he has a like abhorrence of the exactions of capital and the tyranny not infrequently exercised by organized labor. He believes in a tariff and that its revision should be performed by its friends. He urges the increase in ships and in the effectiveness of the work of our navy. We are sorry that he did not express a desire to attempt negotiations with the civilized powers of the world to limit the increase in the ships of the world's navies.

He pleads for reciprocity with Cuba. His argument is eloquent and will be convincing in every State not a sugar producer.

He has the Eastern view of the money question and has not yet raised his eyes to see that the coveted great trade with the Orient could be assured if enlightened statesmanship would at some ratio with gold reinstate silver as money. The great East would then authorize the Government to loan the silver as rapidly as it could be produced; to China taking interest and principal in Chinese products. The President is all right on the subject of irrigation. He stands squarely on the justice of the country's policy toward the Philippines and by the boys in blue who in those far off islands are upholding the flag.

The best features of the message are, first, its hopeful Americanism and, second, the brave, masterful, honest tones in which it is couched.

Almost a riot was precipitated in a Verona theater recently because the ladies refused to obey the Prefect's order to remove their hats. The Argonaut says the custom of removing their hats at a play originated with San Francisco ladies and no other ladies accept the custom with such cheerfulness as do those by the Golden Gate. It concludes that the reason the Italian ladies refused was because they are not pretty enough to appear without the adornment of the hat, while San Francisco ladies are so beautiful that all their loveliness is not brought out until the hat is removed. That looks plausible, but a Salt Lake man just from San Francisco says, "At the Bay when the ladies are in full evening costume, it is not much trouble to also take off the hat."

THE SURPRISED STATESMAN.

A mighty speech he paused to frame,
And zealously displayed it;
And yet the world went on the same
As if he'd never made it.

—Ex.

There couldn't possibly be any local application to this.

If Smoot of Utah goes to the Senate he may be smote.—Nampa (Ida.) Leader.